

REMARKS

The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for thoroughly reviewing and considering the pending application. The Official Action dated February 21, 2006 has been received and carefully reviewed. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-13 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for taking the time to speak with Applicant's Representatives on July 11, 2006. The substance of the interview is set forth in the Remarks and constitutes a record of the interview. We discussed adding the phrase "draws air from a drum," or similar language to the claims as set forth above in the claim amendments. The Examiner agreed that including this phrase would distinguish the claims over the prior art currently cited in this case, and place the application in better condition for allowance.

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 2, 4, and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,161,314 to *Souza* (hereinafter "*Souza*"). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

In view of the discussion and arguments reached during the Examiner interview, claim 1 is patentable over *Souza*. Likewise, claims 2, 4, and 6-8, which depend from claim 1, are also patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

In addition, the Office Action rejected claims 9 and 11-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,199,300 to *Heater et al.* (hereinafter "*Heater*") in view of *Souza*. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Again, pursuant to the discussions and agreements reached during the Examiner interview, claim 9 and claims 11-12 are patentable over *Heater* in view of *Souza*. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

The Office Action rejected claims 3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Souza* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,245,764 to *Sung* (hereinafter "*Sung*"). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

As outlined above with respect to claim 1, the base claim from which claims 3 and 5 depend, *Souza* does not disclose all the limitations recited therein. *Sung* fails to overcome the shortcomings of *Souza*, as discussed and agreed upon during the Examiner interview. As such, the Applicant submits that claims 3 and 5 are patentable over *Souza* in view of *Sung* and requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action also rejected claims 1-13 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-11 of U.S. Patent No. 6,775,923 (hereinafter "the '923 patent"). Regarding claims 1-8, these claims are not obvious in view of claims 1-11 of the '923 patent. More specifically, as previously discussed, claim 1 has been amended to recite a laundry dryer which comprises, among other features, a microcomputer for controlling a driver associated with an exhaust fan wherein the "exhaust fan draws air out of the dryer." The Applicant submits that the '923 patent does not disclose this feature. Accordingly, claim 1 and claims 2-8 are not obvious in view of and, therefore, patentable over claims 1-11 of the '923 patent.

Regarding claim 9, the Applicant has amended claim 9 as noted above and submits that claim 9 is not obvious over and, therefore, is patentable over claims 1-11 of the '923 patent. Likewise, claims 10-13 which depend from claim 9, are also patentable over claims 1-11 of the '923 patent.

The application is in a condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner believes a conversation with the Applicant's representative would facilitate the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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Respectfully submitted,

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